



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

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Date: August 16, 1996

To: Jacqueline Schafer, Director
Department of Fish and Game

From: Lester A. Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Subject: Staff support for the refinement of the CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Common Program.

We have identified a need for technical help to refine several elements of the Ecosystem Restoration Program. The tasks that remain require a high level of experience and understanding of the habitats and ecological processes of the Bay-Delta system and its watersheds. The consequence of error at this stage of our Program would be very significant.

The tasks we have identified are outlined as follows:

1. The identification and justification of targets for fisheries and aquatic habitat restoration. This will involve coordination of existing Program goals with the overlay of our broader ecosystem restoration approach. Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and several organizational units of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) must occur. The incumbent will work with Dick Daniel and our consultant team to establish targets by mid-October.
2. A comprehensive monitoring program needs to be designed. This will include monitoring the ecosystem as a whole to measure progress toward restoration and monitoring of individual actions. The incumbent will lead this effort and coordinate closely with the work team established by the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) and the monitoring program of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). Our work plan calls for a final draft monitoring plan by early November.
3. Implementation of the fisheries and aquatic habitat elements of the Program will require phasing adaptive management and focused research. The incumbent will work with

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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Dick Daniel as lead, and our consultant team as support, to complete a phasing schedule, develop an adaptive management concept and to identify research needs by mid-November.

4. The fish screening policies of the DFG, USFWS, and NMFS need to be consolidated. There is also a critical need to give diverters assurance that, if they invest in a fish screen, which complies with agreed upon criteria, it will have a reasonable shelf life. We envision a CALFED agency fish screen policy that includes appropriate assurances. The incumbent will work with the CALFED agencies and interested stakeholders to draft a recommended policy, and to present it to the CALFED managers for discussion. We hope that this very important task can be completed by January of 1997.
5. The refinement of the Ecosystem Program will continue through March of 1997, when we will be completing our first administrative draft of the EIR/S for our overall Program. We plan to involve the incumbent daily in this process.

Our experience with his work, suggests that Mr. Terry Mills, of your Inland Fisheries Division, would be the best person for these assignments.

A similar set of tasks, requiring technical expertise in wildlife habitat and management of wetlands, also exists. Those tasks are:

1. The development of targets for restoration of wildlife and wetland habitats and a program to protect and restore plants of special concern. Completion of this task will require coordination with the DFG, USFWS, the State Lands Commission, and several public interest groups. The incumbent will work as lead on this effort and will receive staff support from our consultant team. This task should be completed by mid-October.
2. The wildlife and wetlands elements must be incorporated into the comprehensive monitoring plan described above. The incumbent will work with Mr. Mills and the IEP team to integrate wildlife and plant monitoring into the comprehensive plan. This needs to be completed in early November.
3. A phasing requirement will be necessary for the wildlife elements of our Ecosystem Restoration program. This will include some research and experimentation and the strategic selection of locations for habitat restoration. The incumbent will work with various units of the DFG, USFWS, and local landowners to complete this task by mid-November.

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4. Implementation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program will require several layers of permits, agreements, and consultations with CALFED agencies and other regulatory agencies. Consolidated or Program permits and a streamlined process will be essential to the timely completion of the Program. We will ask the incumbent to form a multi-agency team to develop a permit streamlining process for the CALFED ecosystem program. We need to complete this task by March of 1997.

Based on our current working relationship with Frank Wernette, and his staff at the Bay-Delta Division, we ask that Frank and his team be assigned to these efforts.

We propose that Dick Daniel serve as overall lead person for these efforts. He will not replace current supervisory chain-of-command for Terry or Frank. A change in headquarters is not necessary, but close and frequent coordination is important.

We have an existing contract with DFG that can easily be amended to include these tasks and the salary and overhead for Frank and his team, and Terry. We would like them to start on these tasks by September 3, 1996, or sooner if possible.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation in this process.